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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected and Claims 3 and 5 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claim 4 has been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, Claims 3 and 5 are amended and Claims 6-13 are added. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled without prejudice. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants confirm the provisional election to prosecute the invention directed to a tubeless tire assembly having an "inner liner layer" and a "most inner layer" that form an "adhesion part" and a "non-adhesion part," wherein the most inner layer contains openings (Claim 5). Claims 1-3 are generic. Additionally, new Claims 6, 8-10, 12, and 13 are generic.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for reciting "said adhesion part includes an adhesion part, in which said non adhesion part stuck to said inner liner layer is formed in a line or a dot. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice and it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Kawaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 4,966,213). Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and thus the rejection is now moot.

It is additionally submitted that the rejection does not apply to Claims 3 and 5 which have been rewritten in independent format. As stated in the Office Action on page 6, paragraph 10, Claims 3 and 5 are now allowable. Additionally, new Claims 6 and 7 are allowable over Kawaguchi in view of the incorporation of the elements of

Claims 3 and 5 into Claims 6 and 7. Finally, it is submitted that Claims 8-13 are allowable over the cited reference for the following reasons.

Claims 8-13 are directed to a tubeless tire in which the most inner layer covers the entire inside of the inner liner layer. The most inner layer thus which includes the sidewall part of the tubeless tire. Thus, if a nail bursts through the sidewall part of the presently claimed tire, the non adhesion part is pushed and stretched inside the tubeless tire by the protruded nail. However, the nail does not burst through the inner most layer and air leakage is prevented. This is dramatically different from the structure of the Kawaguchi tire. It is also different from the results of the puncture protection provided by Kawaguchi.

It is submitted that the tubeless tire of Kawaguchi does not teach or suggest the presently claimed "most inner layer" which covers the entire inside of the inner liner layer. In particular, it is submitted that the inner most layer of Kawaguchi is not positioned on the sidewall part of the tire. Thus, if a nail punctures the sidewall portion of the Kawaguchi tire and bursts through the sidewall, because the most inner liner layer of Kawaguchi is not positioned near the sidewall. Thus, the Kawaguchi tubeless tire will not prevent air leakage.

Further, it is noted that in the tubeless tire of Kawaguchi the adhesion part considered by the Examiner is the location where two layers are contacted. It is observed that this position is located just at the hole bored on the sealing material layer, unlike the present invention in which the most inner layer covers the inside of the inner liner layer. Therefore, it is submitted that Kawaguchi is not relevant for this additional reason.

It is also noted that in Kawaguchi, the sealing material layers are stacked in the radial direction of the tire. This stacking prevents the most inner layer of Kawaguchi from being able to sufficiently stretch inward. This inability to stretch inward results in Kawaguchi's tire being unable to prevent the bursting of the most inner layer by a nail, unlike the presently claimed invention. Therefore, it is submitted that Kawaguchi does not teach this aspect of the claimed invention and that the pending claims should be allowed in view of this reference.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Harrington (U.S. Patent No. 3,930,528). It is submitted that the cancellation of Claim 1 has rendered this rejection moot. Additionally, Applicants submit that the Harrington patent is irrelevant to the remaining pending claims. Claims 3 and 5 were deemed allowable in the pending Office Action and Claims 6 and 7 also incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5. As for Claims 8-13, it is submitted that the following comments are sufficient to remove Harrington as a relevant reference.

It is noted that the elements of the Harrington tubeless tire which are argued by the Examiner to be equivalent to the non adhesion part of the present invention are located in the vicinity of the tread or in the vicinity of the carcass. It is also noted that unlike the presently claimed invention, in Harrington the area of the non adhesion part is smaller than that of the adhesion part.

Therefore, it is submitted that in the tubeless tire of Harrington, the area of the most inner layer which is stretched inward is very small. It is further submitted that when a nail bursts through the Harrington tread and pushes against the non adhesion part of the Harrington most inner layer, the stress of the nail is concentrated on a limited

part of the most inner layer, as the smallness of the most inner layer results in the layer's inability to stretch sufficiently. In this case, the nail will burst the Harrington most inner layer and air loss will occur.

It is submitted, however, that the area of the presently claimed non adhesion part of the most inner layer is larger than the adhesion part and that the capability of the most inner layer to stretch is therefore significantly greater than Harrington and that it is sufficient to prevent such a bursting. In other words, the stress added by the nail is diffused when the nail bursts through the presently claimed most inner layer and pushes the non adhesion part of the most inner layer. Therefore, the present invention prevents the bursting of the most inner layer by a nail, unlike the tubeless tire of Harrington. It is requested that the citation to the Harrington reference be withdrawn in view of the above statements.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Yamagiwa (WO 99/47345). It is submitted that the cancellation of Claim 1 has rendered this rejection moot. Additionally, regarding the remaining pending claims, Applicants submit that the Yamagiwa reference is not applicable. Claims 3 and 5 were deemed allowable in the pending Office Action and Claims 6 and 7 incorporate the elements of Claims 3 and 5. As for Claims 8-13, it is submitted that the following comments are sufficient to remove Yamagiwa as a relevant reference.

It is noted that the tubeless tire of Yamagiwa lacks an element that corresponds to the claimed invention's "most inner layer" which covers the entire inside of the inner liner layer. That is, in the tubeless tire of Yamagiwa, a most inner layer is not provided

on the entire inside surface of the inner liner layer. Thus, the non adhesion part of the most inner layer of Yamagiwa is not positioned at the sidewall part of the tire.

It is noted that if a nail sticks into the sidewall part of the tire and bursts through the sidewall, the leakage of air from the Yamagiwa tire cannot be prevented because the most inner layer is not positioned on the sidewall part. However, in the tubeless tire of the present invention, the non adhesion part of the most inner layer is positioned at the sidewall part of the tubeless tire. That is, if a nail bursts through the sidewall part, the non adhesion part of the most inner layer of the present invention stretches inside of the tubeless tire and the nail does not burst through the most inner layer and leakage of air is prevented. It is requested that the citation of Yamagiwa be withdrawn in view of the above statements.

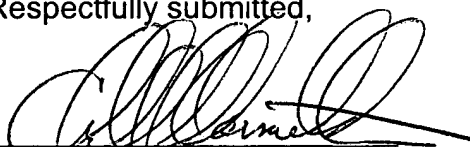
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 3 and 5-13, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited. Additionally, as generic Claims 3, 6, 8-10, 12, and 13 are in allowable condition, it is requested that Claim 4 be rejoined.

If this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone listed below.

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In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 106145-00022.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Marmelstein', written over a horizontal line.

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